

Keeping in Touch

News and notes from
the Universal Fellowship of Metropolitan Community Churches

March 1995

Gay & Lesbian Freedom Riders Destination: Ovett, Mississippi

Rev. Troy Perry, founder and moderator of Metropolitan Community Churches, the largest organization of gays and lesbians in the world, and Robin Tyler, a prominent lesbian activist who originally called for and emceed the 1st March on Washington for Lesbian and Gay Rights, and subsequently produced the Main Stage for the 2nd and 3rd Marches, met at the end of January with Wanda and Brenda Henson at Camp Sister Spirit near Ovett, Mississippi.

On January 17, 1995, consensus was reached regarding Memorial Day Weekend. (Friday, May 26 - Monday, May 29). That weekend a thousand gays and lesbians from all across America will ride to the aid of a lesbian family and their besieged property outside Ovett. Camp Sister Spirit has been exposed to an ongoing, radical right inspired campaign of violence, harassment, intimidation and death threats.

If you would like to join this historic weekend, go to Camp Sister Spirit, help clear the land, and aid in building, you can call or write UFMCC, 5300 Santa Monica Blvd., #304, Los Angeles, CA 90029, ATTN: Project: Camp Sister Spirit, or call Frank Zerilli at (213) 464-5100, ext. 212.

The minimum donation will be \$135.00 per person. Of this \$110 will be used to cover the cost of food, sanitation, equipment, etc. Campers must plan to bring their own tents and utensils. If you plan to come in an R.V., that will cost an additional \$40. \$25.00 from each fee will be used to help Camp Sister Spirit pay for expenses for a Federal Lawsuit to be filed under the anti-Klan act for the harassment they have received. Any money left over will go to the Camp Sister Spirit Folkschool (an educational and



At Camp Sister Spirit in Ovett are, from left to right: Cheri Michael, Robin Tyler, Rev. Troy Perry and Wanda Henson.

cultural retreat center that makes available an opportunity for learning non-oppressive lifeways).

Although participants will be helping work the land for the 4 days, they will also have the opportunity to participate in workshops, singalongs, worship services...in other words, four days of helping others, but also, four days of celebration and joy!

(see Ovett, Mississippi, page 4)

Gay Minister Fasts in Prison

Rev. Mel White was arrested Feb. 15 at the Christian Broadcasting Network's headquarters in Virginia Beach, VA, while asking CBN to condemn hate crimes against gay and lesbian Americans.

He was charged with trespassing at an institution of higher learning, and arraignment was set for March 28. Meanwhile, Rev. White is fasting in prison while awaiting CBN founder Pat Robertson's agreement to take a stand against the suffering of innocent Americans who are targeted in hate crimes.

Rev. White is National Minister of Justice for the Universal Fellowship of Met-

ropolitan Community Churches. Before coming out as a gay man, Rev. White was a ghost writer for many leaders in the radical religious right, including Robertson, for whom he wrote *America's Date with Destiny*.

On Feb. 15 CBN spokesperson Gene Kapp accepted a letter from White to Robertson, which said, "Let me summarize our simple request. First, acknowledge the growing number of hate crimes against gay and lesbian Americans. Second, condemn those hate crimes and the people who incite or commit them." Robertson has ignored Rev. White's re-

quest for a meeting for 20 months.

Kapp then requested that Rev. White leave with his interdenominational delegation of a dozen community and Christian leaders. Rev. White replied, "As an act of civil disobedience in the name of Christ I choose to stay." He was then arrested, placed in handcuffs and removed from the property by police.

Rev. Troy Perry, founder and moderator of the Universal Fellowship of Metropolitan Community Churches, expressed strong support for Rev. White. "It is a shame that the head of the fifth-largest

(see Rev. Mel White, page 6)

Mr. Friesen Looks Back and Ahead

After 13 years as South Central District Coordinator, Mr. Clarke Friesen has decided not to seek re-election when his term concludes this May.

He has served longer than any other district coordinator in UFMCC history. Here he shares some of the insights he gained during that long and productive period of service.

1] When did you join UFMCC and what leadership positions have you held?

I first came to the UFMCC at MCC of Houston (Texas) on the last Sunday of May, 1974. Fifteen days later the Co-Worship Coordinators appointed me to the five-member Advisory Board of Directors. In Sept. 1974, I was appointed as the Clerk of the Board. In March of 1979 I declined to be a candidate for re-election to the Board of Directors. During that time, I served on three pastoral searches, as the church called first Rev. Robert M. Falls (1975), Rev. Jeri Ann Harvey (late 1976), and Rev. Chuck Larsen (late 1978). I was also the Clerk and member of the Board as the church moved from a run-down store-front facility on Waugh Drive, to a larger and much nicer free-standing building on Joe Annie Street, and then purchased the current facility at 1919 Decatur Street in Houston.

At the May 1978 South Central District Conference I was elected as the District Clerk. In May 1979, the District elected me as the Assistant District Coordinator. Rev. Elder Don Eastman was then the District Coordinator, and in Sept. 1979, he assigned me to go to Agape' MCC in Ft. Worth, TX to do an evaluation of that church. That was my first District trip. In May 1980, then Pastor of MCC of Austin Rev. Candace Naisbitt was elected as the District Coordinator. She immediately decided that she would handle the District's nine churches, but that if anything new came along, it would be delegated to me. In June 1980, there was a call from Lubbock, TX, regarding establishment of an MCC. I was assigned, and went, and we established that church. For



Mr. Clarke Friesen

the next two years, I worked with local individuals to establish MCC in communities in the District including: Shreveport, Galveston, Lafayette, Lawton, Ft. Smith, Stillwater, Abilene, and Corpus Christi. Other churches were established after I became the District Coordinator.

In May 1982, the District wished to elect me as the District Coordinator; however, UFMCC Bylaws required that the District Coordinator be a Clergyperson. Rev. Elder Troy D. Perry was present at the Conference, and when queried, informed the District that they could declare the position vacant, and then elect me as the "Acting District Coordinator." I served as Acting District Coordinator until the 1983 General Conference when the Bylaws were amended, and then could officially carry the title of "District Coordinator."

While serving as District Coordinator, I was a part of the GSS which brought forward the restructuring in 1985. I was appointed and served on the General Council Task Force to restructure World Church Extension, the Task Force to restructure the CCCC, and the Task Force to redesign Samaritan College. I have served as the Chair of the General Council's Corporate and Legal Division, and as Chair of the Bylaws Committee.

(see Mr. Clarke Friesen, page 6)

Samaritan Makes Big Changes

At the February 1995 Annual Meeting of the Samaritan Board of Trustees, five new Trustees and new board leadership were installed. The board also voted to rename Samaritan College as "Samaritan Institute For Religious Studies: Education for Liberation."

At its Board Retreat in August, 1994, the Board established the mission of Samaritan: "...to provide non-homophobic theological education for leadership into the 21st century." In order to more accurately reflect this mission the school's name was changed to identify what kind of school Samaritan is. The Board searched for additional Trustees who can effectively implement the school's strategic plan: RAISE THE PROFILE OF SAMARITAN; STRENGTHEN ACADEMIC PROGRAMMING AND ACHIEVE FINANCIAL HEALTH.

The new Trustees are:

Rev. Marie Fortune, M.Div.
Leon Hampton, J.D.
Terry M. Stone, B.A.
Elias Farajaje-Jones, Ph.D.
Gary Skala, M.A.

The 1995 Board Leadership assignments are:

Chair of the Board: Marsha Raulston, M.A., San Francisco, CA.

Immediate Past Chair: Michael Dively, J.D., Key West, FL.

Vice Chair: Charles Lippy, Ph.D., Chattanooga, TN.

Treasurer/Chair of Finance: Terry M. Stone, Seattle, WA.

Secretary/Chair of Institutional Advancement: Gary Skala, Chicago, IL.

President: Sandra L. Robinson, M.Div., Lewisville, TX.

To contact Samaritan, write to: P.O. Box 688, Lewisville, TX 75067; or phone (214) 221-7749; fax (214) 221-7345. □



Keeping in Touch is a monthly publication of the Universal Fellowship of Metropolitan Community Churches. We are a church of the lesbian and gay community, open to all. Our mission is to call people to new life through the liberating gospel of Jesus Christ, confront injustice through Christian social action, and create a community of healing and reconciliation.

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Director of Administration
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Ms. Nancy Fackrell, Typesetting

Powerful Ministry in The Dominican Republic



Visiting the Dominican Republic from left to right are: Ms. Ana Vargas, Rev. Steve Torrence, Rev. Judy Dahl, Rev. Elder Darlene Garner, and Rev. Howard Williams.

MCC's in the Dominican Republic are doing an important and powerful ministry! Last month, Rev. Elder Darlene Garner, pastor of MCC Northern Virginia and member of the Board of Elders; Rev. Steve Torrence, pastor of MCC Key West, FL; Rev. Judy Dahl, Administrator of World Church Extension; and Ms. Ana Vargas of MCC Ventura, CA, spent a week in our three ministry settings in the Dominican Republic.

MCC Alma Rosa is pastored by the Rev. Howard Williams, founder of our ministry in this country. El Tamarindo MCC is pastored by Rev. Francisco Barrera and our newest work, is at the San Salvador school and orphanage in Urena. All three sites

Beacon of Hope in Taiwan?

Recently a letter was received from a young man in Taiwan who had discovered UFMCC. He writes, "I read about your church in a book. Though it's something I never heard of, your church seems to be the lighthouse I've been looking for. Please send me any information about MCC and please, pray for the churches in Taiwan. I hope that someday we'll have churches like MCC here." Will this be a beacon of hope in a new part of the world? What will UFMCC be able to offer this young man in 1995? □



Workers of World Community Builders worship with MCC Reconciliation in Mexico City.

are teeming with a spirit which is alive and active in the love of God. We are serving a large number of children in each location as well as the adult population.

This was the first official visit from MCC personnel although World Community Builders and a variety of clergy and lay leaders from throughout the UFMCC have been doing ministry with our Dominican churches throughout their eight years of existence.

Over the next few months, articles will appear in *Keeping in Touch* to alert you to ways you can help strengthen this important work! In the meantime, keep our sisters and brothers in the Dominican Republic and all World Church Extension areas in your ongoing prayers. □



Children of the San Salvador School and Orphanage.

World Community Builders Becomes Official UFMCC Program

At the October, 1994 meeting of the General Council of the UFMCC, World Community Builders was approved as a program of the UFMCC connected with World Church Extension. This official link will enable better coordination of efforts between World Church Extension and World Community Builders and will facilitate future planning. This will help World Community Builders expand its service beyond the two countries where it is now working (the Dominican Republic and Mexico) and will help with discovering areas of need and the determining of priorities.

Under the new arrangements, World Community Builders will continue to operate under the direction of its own Board of Trustees, but with that board accountable to the UFMCC.

In November of 1994 World Community Builders held a work camp at Reconciliation MCC in Mexico City where they did renovations on the church. On March 11-20, 1995 a work camp will be held in the Dominican Republic at the San Salvador Orphanage where workers will expand the orphanage by constructing additional classrooms and/or housing space.

If you wish to offer your services or obtain more information on World Community Builders, please write to the Director, Rev. Steve Fund, at 305 Ben Franklin Road, Gilbert, SC 29054; or call (803) 657-5055. □

In Memory

Rev. Patrick Mecham

Rev. Patrick Mecham died February 10, 1995 of AIDS-related complications.

Rev. Mecham began as Student Clergy at Pittsburgh MCC, PA, and was Student Clergy also at All Saints MCC in W. Hollywood, CA. He received his license in 1979 and was pastor of Family of God MCC, Morgantown, WV and also for Sweet Spirit MCC in Salem, OR. From 1991 until the time of his death he was the Minister of Religious Education at MCC Boise, ID.

Mr. Matthew Snyder

Mr. Matthew Snyder died January 30, 1995 of AIDS-related complications. He was a longtime MCC member, active in churches in Hartford, CT, Russian River and San Francisco, CA. Matthew studied at Pacific School of Religion in Berkeley, CA.

Ovett, Mississippi

(continued from page 1)

"I think it's vitally important for lesbians and gay males and our friends to come to Ovett, Mississippi to help our sisters who are under siege," said Rev. Troy Perry, "and to serve notice to the evil forces in this country that these sisters have the right to purchase and establish their camp and folkschool anywhere in America."

The maximum number is 1000 participants. If you wish to register, send a check for \$135.00 per person, made out to "UFMCC: Project Camp Sister Spirit" and mail it to the Los Angeles address above. Detailed brochures regarding what to bring will be sent to you. If you cannot attend, but wish to send a donation, it would be appreciated. □

Getting Ready To Go 'Down Under'

In preparing for the General Conference in Australia, July 1997, we would like to present some of the details you will need to take care of ahead of time.

(1) **PASSPORT:** A valid passport is required for travel to Australia. It is best if the passport has a validity date which extends for at least 3 months beyond the expected date of departure from Australia.

(2) **VISA:** People from most countries now require a Visa to enter Australia. Normally this is a Visitor's Visa which does not permit you to work whilst in the country. Usually travel agents arrange to obtain the Visa for you. However, it is wise to apply for the Visa at least one month prior to your departure.

(3) **HIV+ STATUS:** People who are HIV+ have no difficulty in obtaining a Visitor's Visa to Australia.

(4) **DEPARTURE TAX:** As you leave Australia to return home, you must pay AU\$25 Departure Tax. (Some international Visitors buy the Departure Tax stamp on arrival here, others put the AU\$25 into their Passport the first time they change money into Australian currency).

(5) **AUSTRALIAN CURRENCY:** In Australia you will need Australian currency. You can change your currency at airports on arrival, at most hotels, or at a bank. (The 'best' rates are usually through a bank.) It would be easier however, to arrive in the country with about \$100 in Australian currency - if you give your bank sufficient notice they can obtain this money for you before you leave. The exchange rate fluctuates on a daily basis - in mid-January 1995 the rate was AU\$1 = US\$0.76.

Australian Currency is as follows:

Coins	Notes
*1 cent	\$5 (purple)
*2 cents	\$10 (dark blue)
5 cents	\$20 (red)
10 cents	\$50 (orange/green)
20 cents	\$100 (silverish blue)
50 cents	
\$1	* 1 and 2 cent coins are no longer in circulation.
\$2	A total is rounded up or down to closest 5c.

(6) **CREDIT CARDS:** Mastercard and Visacard are widely accepted in Australia. American Express and Diners Club are accepted in luxurious tourist resorts and the more expensive establishments. Other cards such as Barclays, Carte Blanche or Citibank have extremely limited acceptance.

(7) **PERSONAL CHEQUES:** Overseas personal cheques are rarely accepted in Australia. Sometimes they take up to 45 days to 'clear' and the international clearance fees are expensive.

(8) **PLASTIC BANKING CARDS:** Ascertain from your bank before you leave whether or not you can use your plastic card in Australia. It is essential to ascertain if your card has overseas status - if it does this will save you arranging for traveller's cheques.

(9) **ELECTRICITY VOLTAGE:** Australian electricity supplies are 240 volts. People from the US and Canada will not be able to use their hairdryers, electric shavers, hair curlers, etc. unless: * it is a dual voltage machine; * you have a voltage convertor; or * you have appropriate power plug adaptors (you can purchase them in Australia). People from UK and Europe will need power plug adaptors.

(10) **TIPPING:** Tipping is not a universal practice in Australia. A hotel porter will expect to be tipped, as will a waiter in an 'up market' restaurant if you receive excellent service. □

Speakers for General Conference

Some of the speakers for General Conference, July 1995 in Atlanta, GA, have been named. This list includes such greats as:

*Chris Glaser, an openly gay Presbyterian and author of numerous books, including *Uncommon Calling* and *Word is Out*.

*Elizabeth Stuart, editor of *Daring to Speak Love's Name*

*Paul Sherry, president of United Church of Christ.

Others who will be presenting plenaries and speaking at workshops, include such names as Eric Rofes and Randall Bailey.

This looks to be a great conference with many wonderful speakers; don't miss out! □

Young Adults Program

At General Conference in Atlanta we are planning a program for Young Adults (age 17-25) that will be integrated in the overall conference program. It will include the following elements.

1) Workshops for and by Young Adults and those interested in such programs.

2) Social events for young adults only.

3) Networking opportunities for young adults and churches working with them.

4) Utilizing young adults in worship, voices of the people, The Daily, etc.

We need your help:

1) Identify young adults in MCC who can serve as leaders/coordinators/participants in the above. We would like a team of young adults to coordinate these events.

2) Identify the churches that have a program for and/or large number of young adults.

3) Help us get the word out! Let the Fellowship Offices in Los Angeles know soon if you can help us in any way. □

Around The Fellowship

Praises

"Gay By God's Will," a television show produced by **MCC Milwaukee, WI**, received three awards at the cable access awards program sponsored by the Milwaukee Area Telecommunications Authority.

Rev. Alison Warder, national ecumenical officer of the United Kingdom, and **Rev. Andy Braunston**, pastor of **MCC in East London**, recently represented UFMCC at England's national coordinating group of lesbian and gay Christian groups.

Pastor Kelly Byrnes of **MCC Bridgerland** in Logan, UT was nominated to serve on the HIV Prevention Community Planning Committee of the Utah Department of Health.

Rev. Nancy Smiegowski was accepted as a scholarship student into an executive MBA program at the University of Wisconsin in Milwaukee, and **Rev. Chris Pasinski** was appointed chair of the Gay and Lesbian Special Interest Network for the American Mental Health Counselors Association. Both live in Racine, WI.

Rev. Dusty Pruitt, pastor of **MCC Long Beach, CA**, was portrayed briefly on U.S. national television in the movie "Serving in Silence," the story of Col. Margaret Cammermeyer as a lesbian in the U.S. military.

Rev. Ed Paul has successfully completed three months of service for **MCC in the Philippines**.

Sales are brisk for the 25th anniversary edition of *The Lord is My Shepherd and He Knows I'm Gay* by **Rev. Elder Troy Perry**, UFMCC founder and moderator. The UFMCC Resource Center has already shipped about a third of the first print run.

Rev. Neil Thomas, pastor of **MCC Bournemouth, England**, was featured on the British Broadcasting Corp. evening news program "Life Stories" Dec. 15.

MCC of the High Country, Boone, NC, began a formal campus ministry relationship with Appalachian State University.

Prayers

Prayers are requested for the **UFMCC General Council** as it meets March 14-21, 1995 in Los Angeles, CA.

MCC Los Angeles, CA, voted unanimously to sell their property. The earthquake-damaged building was demolished in December and the congregation is looking for a new location.

MCC New Life, Matthews, NC, is looking for a new home. The congregation decided to sell the building after harassment from neighbors made it clear that the sanctuary in Matthews will never be the church home they want and need.

Rev. Alice Jones, pastor of **MCC of Greater Tulsa, OK**, is recuperating from major knee surgery.

Mr. Steve Campbell, alternate lay delegate of **Lamb of God MCC, Anchorage, AK**, requests prayers following his hospitalization for e coli poisoning.

Transitions

Emmanuel MCC in Spokane, WA, has elected **Rev. Linda Laster** as pastor, effective Dec. 1, 1994.

Rev. Buddy Vess was elected pastor of **Central Texas MCC from the Heart, Waco, TX**.

Rev. Leslie Corkhill was appointed pastor of **Pax Christi MCC, Southampton, England**.

Student clergy **Sandy O'Steen** has been called to pastor **MCC Corpus Christi, TX**.

Mr. Mark Williams was appointed pastor of **MCC in the Ozarks, Springfield, MO**.

The following pastors and pastoral leaders resigned recently: **Rev. Polly Ireland, MCC Chattanooga, TN**; **Rev. Liz Leech, MCC Columbus, OH**; **Rev. Martie Casmero, Reconciliation MCC, Grand Rapids, MI**; **Rev. Jim Burns, MCC New Haven, CT**; and **Rev. Mary Merriman, Vision of Hope MCC, Mountville, PA**.

Top 20 Tithes - Jan. 1995

1.	Cathedral of Hope MCC, Dallas, TX	US\$	7,741.95
2.	MCC of the Resurrection, Houston, TX		5,772.73
3.	MCC Washington, Washington, DC		3,600.11
4.	Sunshine Cathedral MCC, Ft. Lauderdale, FL		3,401.69
5.	MCC New York, New York City, NY		2,062.24
6.	MCC San Francisco, San Francisco, CA		1,996.27
7.	St. Luke's MCC, Jacksonville, FL		1,869.58
8.	MCC of the Rockies, Denver, CO		1,832.25
9.	MCC Los Angeles, Culver City, CA		1,776.18
10.	MCC Long Beach, Long Beach, CA		1,682.44
11.	King of Peace MCC, St. Petersburg, FL		1,575.08
12.	Church of the Trinity MCC, Sarasota, FL		1,487.26
13.	Joy MCC, Orlando, FL		1,435.34
14.	Church of Our Savior MCC, Boca Raton, FL		1,335.90
15.	MCC in the Valley, N. Hollywood, CA		1,150.66
16.	MCC Richmond, Richmond, VA		1,047.08
17.	MCC Tampa, Tampa, FL		1,041.96
18.	Gentle Shepherd MCC, Phoenix, AZ		970.48
19.	First MCC of Atlanta, GA		959.30
20.	All God's Children MCC, Minneapolis, MN		946.65

{These figures reflect the 10 percent of each local church's monthly income that is reported to Fellowship headquarters.}

Top 20 Per Capita - Jan. 1995

1.	New Horizons MCC, Oklahoma City, OK	US \$	31.45
2.	Open Arms MCC, Rochester, NY		31.43
3.	Church of the Holy Spirit MCC, Des Moines, IA		29.56
4.	MCC of the Resurrection, Houston, TX		29.44
5.	Faith Eternal MCC, Springfield, IL		27.76
6.	Muskegon MCC, Muskegon, MI		27.50
7.	MCC New York, New York City, NY		27.42
8.	MCC of Greater Hayward, San Lorenzo, CA		26.36
9.	MCC Ocean of Life, Costa Mesa, CA		25.36
10.	MCC Los Angeles, Culver City, CA		24.98
11.	SisterSpirit, Portland, OR		24.91
12.	MCC Johnson County, Shawnee, KS		24.14
13.	Christ the Liberator MCC, New Brunswick, NJ		23.91
14.	Maranatha Fellowship MCC, Houston, TX		23.72
15.	Russian River MCC, Guerneville, CA		23.62
16.	Gentle Souls MCC, Kansas City, MO		22.52
17.	New Life MCC, Charlotte, NC		22.21
18.	Reconciliation MCC, Grand Rapids, MI		21.58
19.	MCC Long Beach, Long Beach, CA		21.16
20.	Harvest MCC, Denton, TX		20.42

{These figures reflect the average individual weekly offerings to the local church.}

Mr. Clarke Friesen

(continued from page 2)

2] What were the highlights of your service as District Coordinator?

I'm not sure that I can list all! The joy of establishing a new church, and watching the local people realize that there really is hope is an incredible joy. The growth of congregations into strong mature churches with growing memberships has been a great joy. Working with and watching individuals develop their leadership skills, answer the call to pastoral ministry, and then effectively exercising that call is a wonderful thing to experience! The joy of seeing the District emerge from the bitter internal fight over inclusivity in 1981 to becoming a strong, healthy, fairly unified and viable District has been a great joy. I'm convinced the finest people in the world are in South Central District-UFMCC congregations, and I've been incredibly blessed to work with and among those wonderful folks!

3] How has UFMCC changed since you first became District Coordinator 13 years ago?

Of course, we changed structure in 1985. That change empowered Districts as legislative bodies, and gave the District Coordinator some authority to really do the work. That made a tremendous difference. We've become much more serious and intense about the business of being the church! I think that AIDS brought us to the stark realization that this really is about living, and living well, with dignity and hope. That seriousness is reaping rewards as our churches generally have solid credibility, and do make a major difference in the community. We've begun to mature in our ability to deal with difficult issues, to listen to each other, and work together in our differences; leaving much of the screaming and yelling at each other, as we formerly did, behind us (praise God!). We've also become more capable of working with greater diversity, and affirming all peoples; though those are still clearly unfinished tasks!

4] What challenges do you see ahead for UFMCC as a denomination entering the 21st Century?

It appears to me that we're still trying to determine if we're really going to be "new wine in new wineskins," or if we're going to be a traditional Christian church with an outreach to the gay and lesbian community. And, it appears that we're often afraid to name it! I think that particular struggle for our "soul" is evident in many areas. I think it is evident in those areas where inclusive language is still controversial. That struggle is evident in how we allocate finances through our budget process, our debates around pastoral leadership, Clergy Credentialing, and ethical standards for leadership, and in our effort to heal our "ism's" and truly invite all peoples in. It is evident in tensions or conflicts in local congregations. I perceive that UFMCC is called to be a new reformation, and that to live that authentically, we must be "new wine in new wineskins"; and resist the temptation of slipping back to the old that we've previously known. It also means that we need to be a prophetic voice, sounding a clarion call to the authentic Gospel of Christ.

5] What are your future plans?

Today, I have no idea! I'm looking, and seeking. □

Rev. Mel White

(continued from page 1)

television network in America has refused to condemn violence against Americans who, only because of their sexual orientation, are murdered, fired from their jobs, abandoned by their families, and deprived of the rights guaranteed to them by the Constitution," Rev. Perry said.

Supporters continue to return to the CBN property daily for prayer vigils. □

Arts In The Church

Vieux Carre' MCC in New Orleans, LA, sponsored its first art program, "Arts in the Church," during the Epiphany season, Jan. 8 through Fat Tuesday, Feb. 28, 1995.

The first artist to participate in the program was Chris Karnes. He displayed contemporary large scale crosses in the sanctuary. Chris Karnes is a well known and active part of the art community in New Orleans and the Gulf Coast region. His strong stance in using his art to help in the struggling fight against AIDS has influenced not only his work but the lives of many others.

Charles Clark II, Art Director for the program, is in search of artists who would like to participate in "Arts in the Church" for the seasons to come. The upcoming seasons are Lent, beginning Ash Wed., Mar. 1 through Passover, Apr. 15 and Easter, beginning Sun., Apr. 16 through May 28, 1995. Mr. Clark has been a gallery director for over ten years including his own CIRCA gallery and formerly the Mario Villa Gallery in Los Angeles.

Rev. Dexter Brecht, Pastor of Vieux Carre' MCC, initiated the program because "Art has always been an important factor in the religious expression. This is our way of including art in our community of faith's worship experience." Rev. Brecht has been Pastor of Vieux Carre' MCC for over a year as well as being a credentialed Clergy in the UFMCC. Rev. Brecht holds a master of arts degree from the University of Iowa.

For more information on the "Arts in the Church" programs please contact either Charles Clark II at (504) 944-0097 or Vieux Carre' MCC at (504) 945-5390. □

Classifieds

TO PLACE AN AD

Cost is \$15 for the first 25 words or less. Additional words are 70 cents per word. Numbers and abbreviations count as words. All classifieds must be prepaid in U.S. funds. All copy for Keeping in Touch Classified Advertising is subject to the approval of the Editorial Board. Appearance of advertising does not imply, nor does it constitute, endorsement by UFMCC. Mail ads to: Keeping in Touch Classifieds, 5300 Santa Monica Blvd., #304, Los Angeles, CA 90029.

BOOKS & PUBLICATIONS

LESBIAN & GAY MARRIAGE: Private Commitments, Public Ceremonies Are there benefits to marrying? Read the compelling stories of 24 couples representing various religious affiliations - half have formally married, half reject that option, all thrive. Includes viewpoints of ceremony officiators. In bookstores, or call 1/800-447-1656.

POSITIONS AVAILABLE

Attention! What: Pastor Needed.
Where: MCC of the Blue Ridge
When: Now!
Reply to Pastoral Search Committee,
P.O. Box 20459, Roanoke, VA 24018.

MCC San Diego is accepting applications for the full-time position of Senior Pastor. If you would like a CONFIDENTIAL application packet or more information, write:

Pastoral Search Committee
MCC San Diego
P.O. Box 33291

San Diego, CA 92163-3291
(No phone calls please.) All inquiries kept confidential.

"Battered, Bruised but **UNBROKEN** church seeks healing pastor to help shepherd limping flock back to spiritual health and happiness. Only licensed UFMCC clergy need apply. Send resume and cassette or video of recent sermon to ALL SAINTS MCC, Pastoral Search Committee, P O Box 13968, Atlanta, GA 30324.

World Church Extension is in need of someone to head up German translations for General Conference. Please contact Rev. Judy Dahl (213) 464-5100 ext. 228 if you can be of assistance. Also, if you are interested in assisting with Spanish translations, please notify her as soon as possible.

World Church Extension is looking for dedicated professionals who have both a working written knowledge of Russian, and access to computer facilities to translate materials in the Cyrillic alphabet for printing, in consultation with UFMCC staff.

PROFESSIONAL SERVICES

Income tax preparation by phone, mail or e-mail. Licensed - bonded - certified. Sharilyn Steketee; 31 Mission Plaza; Ventura, CA 93001; 805/653-0271. Call to set up interview. Member UFMCC.